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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 /069 W
---------- 122766 /21
P R 140905Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5324
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 3336

DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PFOR IR TC
SUBJECT : UAE-IRANIAN RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 11995

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FONMIN SUWAIDI DECEMBER 12, WE TALKED BRIEFLY ABOUT STATE OF UAE-IRANIAN RELATIONS AND RECENT VISIT OF IRANIAN FONMIN KHALATBARI AND CURRENT VISIT MINECON AND FINANCE ANSARI TO ABU DHABI. SUWAIDI WAS PLEASED TO HAVE DISTINGUISHED IRANIAN OFFICIALS HERE INDICATING THAT THIS REFLECTED EXCELLENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. KHALATBARI, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS ALWAYS HAVING BEEN A FRIEND OF UAE EVEN DURING THE "DIFFICULT PERIOD", WAS FIRST IRANIAN FONMIN TO VISIT UAE. ANSARI, ON OTHER HAND, HAD VISITED UAE BEFORE. THIS YEAR, ANSARI WAS IRAN'S REPRESENTATIVE TO UAE NATIONAL DAY AND WAS GOING TO REMAIN A FEW MORE DAYS TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS.

2. WHILE NOT GOING INTO MUCH DETAIL, SUWAIDI DESCRIBED KHALATBARI MEETINGS AS ASSENTIALLY AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
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ON HOW BOTH COUNTRIES SAW SECURITY SITUATION IN GULF, PROS-

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PECTS FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, AND HOW TO EXPAND GENERALLY NEXUS OF IRANIAN-UAE BILATERAL RELATIONS. KHALATBARI HAD EMPHASIZED IRAN'S SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED UAE UNITY UNDER SHAIKH ZAYID'S LEADERSHIP AND HAD DISCUSSED HOW GULF STATES COULD COLLECTIVELY BETTER ASSURE SECURITY OF GULF REGION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OF MAJOR POWERS.

3. AS FOR ANSARI VISIT, SUWAIDI BELIEVED DISCUSSIONS WOULD LEAD TO FORMATION OF AN IRANIAN-UAE JOINT COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SUWAIDI SAID THAT TRADE BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WAS IN FACT FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL, WITH MUCH OF IT BEING OF ENTREPOT NATURE WITHDHOWS FROM EMIRATES OR IRAN CONSTANTLY PLYING BETWEEN PORTS HERE AND SMALL PORTS ALONG IRAN'S GULF COAST. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS OF COURSE LARGE IRANIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN UAE WHICH ALSO SERVED TO SUPPORT GROWING TWO WAY TRADE. THERE WERE ALSO GROWING POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT VENTURES (PRESUMABLY IN HYDROCARBON FIELD). SUWAIDI SAID UAE LIKED IDEA OF JOINT COMMITTEE BECAUSE IT WOULD PROVIDE MEANS FOR PERIODIC REVIEW OF ECONOMIC ISSUES AND BECAUSE IT PROVIDED ANOTHER MEANS FOR UAE TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH IRAN WHOSE GOOD WILL UAE DEPENDED UPON FOR ITS SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT.
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